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Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

PTO-90C (Rev. 07-01)

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

> A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE _3_ MONTH(S) FROM
> THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.
> - Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed
>   after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
> - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
> - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
> - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
> - Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any
>   earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on _16 November 1999_ .

2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL.**   2b) ☒ This action is non-final.

3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is
closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) ☒ Claim(s) _1-79_ is/are pending in the application.

    4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) ☒ Claim(s) _1-79_ is/are rejected.

7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a)☐ accepted or b)☐ objected to by the Examiner.

    Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a)☐ approved b)☐ disapproved by the Examiner.

    If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

    a)☐ All b)☐ Some * c)☐ None of:

      1.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

      2.☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____ .

      3.☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage
application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

    * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

    a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)

2) ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)

3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _2_ .

4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ .

5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)

6) ☐ Other: .

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1.   The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that

form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

> A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –
>
> (e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the
> United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application
> by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this
> title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act

of 1999 (AIPA) do not apply to the examination of this application as the application

being examined was not (1) filed on or after November 29, 2000, or (2) voluntarily

published under 35 U.S.C. 122(b). Therefore, this application is examined under 35

U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

2.   **Claims 1-33, 36-45, 48-51, 55-71, 74-79 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e)**

as being anticipated by Christianson et al. (U.S 6,085,186), ("Christianson".)

As per claim 1, Christianson teaches a method of searching for information on a

computer information network (Col. 1 lines 10-15), the method comprising the steps of:

- "providing a searchbase comprising a plurality of descriptive packets, wherein

   each packet is associated with one of a plurality of information sources published

   on a computer information network and includes a query language and template

   usable therewith, a sending protocol usable therewith and a receiving protocol

   usable therewith" at Col. 9 lines 25-65;

- "receiving a search request over the computer information network from a user for retrieving information from the plurality of information sources in accordance with given search criteria" at Col. 12 line 4;

- "transforming the search request into an inquiry capable of searching the searchbase"; searching the searchbase with the inquiry to identify any of the plurality of information sources which potentially meet the given search criteria" at Col. 12 lines 5-6;

- "transforming the search request into queries for the identified information sources, wherein each query is in accordance with the query language and query template in the descriptive packet for the corresponding information source" at Col. 12 lines 7-13;

- "sending the queries over the computer information network to the identified information sources in accordance with the sending protocol in the descriptive packet for the corresponding information source" at Col. 12 lines 14-15; and

- "receiving information over the computer information network from the identified information sources in response to the queries in accordance with the receiving protocol in the descriptive packet for the corresponding information source" at Col. 12 lines 16-34.

As per claim 2, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein "at least one of the plurality of information sources is a query form" at Col. 6 lines 5-10.

As per claim 3, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein "at least one of the plurality of information sources is a static page" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 4, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein "at least one of the plurality of information sources is dynamically generated" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 5, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 1, wherein "the sending protocol and the receiving protocol are different protocols" at Col. 11 lines 2-5.

As per claim 6, Christianson teaches a method of searching for information on a computer information network (Col. 1 lines 10-15) comprising the steps of:

- "providing a searchbase comprising a plurality of descriptive packets, wherein each packet is associated with one of a plurality of information sources published on a computer information network and includes a query language and template usable therewith, a sending protocol usable therewith and a receiving protocol usable therewith" at Col. 9 lines 25-65;

- "receiving a search request over the computer information network from a user for retrieving information from the plurality of information sources in accordance with given search criteria" at Col. 12 line 4;

- "transforming the search request into a plurality of queries for the plurality of information sources, wherein each query is in accordance with the query language and query template in the descriptive packet for the corresponding information source" at Col. 12 lines 7-13;

- "sending the plurality of queries over the computer information network to the plurality of information sources in accordance with the sending protocol in the

descriptive packet for the corresponding information source" at Col. 12 lines 14-

15 ;

- "receiving information over the computer information network from the plurality of

  information sources in response to the queries in accordance with the receiving

  protocol in the descriptive packet for the corresponding information source" at

  Col. 12 lines 16-34.

- "identifying to the user over the computer information network any information

  sources from which information was received which meets the given search

  criteria" at Col. 12 lines 30-50.

As per claim 7, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein

"at least one of the plurality of information sources is a query form" at Col. 6 lines 5-10.

As per claim 8, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein

"at least one of the plurality of information sources is a static page" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 9, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein

"at least one of the plurality of information sources is dynamically generated" at Col. 11

lines 5-10.

As per claim 10, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 6, wherein

"the sending protocol and the receiving protocol are different protocols" at Col. 11 lines

2-5.

As per claim 11, Christianson teaches a method of searching for information on

a computer information network, the method comprising the steps of:

- "providing a searchbase comprising a plurality of descriptive packets, wherein each packet is associated with one of a plurality of information sources published on a computer information network and includes an identification of the information source and a content description thereof, a query language and template usable therewith, a sending protocol usable therewith, a receiving protocol usable therewith, and a response language and parsing template usable therewith" at Col. 9 lines 25-65;

- "receiving a search request over the computer information network from a user for retrieving information from the plurality of information sources in accordance with given search criteria" at Col. 12 line 4;

- "transforming the search request into an inquiry capable of searching the searchbase; searching the searchbase with the inquiry to identify any of the plurality of information sources which potentially meet the given search criteria" at Col. 12 lines 5-6; and

- "providing the identity of the identified information sources to the user over the computer information network" at Col. 12 lines 30-50.

As per claim 12, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 11, wherein "in addition to providing the identity, at least a portion of the content description is provided" at Col. 12 lines 30-50.

As per claim 13, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 11, wherein "at least one of the plurality of information sources is a query form" at Col. 6 lines 5-10.

As per claim 14, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 11, wherein "at least one of the plurality of information sources is a static page" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 15, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 11, wherein "at least one of the plurality of information sources is dynamically generated" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 16, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 11, wherein "the sending protocol and the receiving protocol are different protocols" at Col. 11 lines 2-5.

As per claim 17, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 6, further comprising prior to the step of transforming:

- "transforming the search request into an inquiry capable of searching the searchbase" at Col. 12 lines 5-6;

- "searching the searchbase with the inquiry to identify any of the plurality of information sources which potentially meet the given search criteria" at Col. 12 lines 5-6; and

- "wherein the search request is then transformed into queries for the identified information sources" at Col 12 lines 7-13.

As per claim 18, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "the search request is transformed into queries only for the identified information sources" at Col. 12 line 7.

As per claim 19, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "at least one of the plurality of information sources is a query form" at Col. 9 line 67.

As per claim 20, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "at least one of the plurality of information sources is a static page" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 21, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "at least one of the plurality of information sources is dynamically generated" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 22, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "the sending protocol and the receiving protocol are different protocols" at Col. 11 lines 2-5.

As per claim 23, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "in addition to sending the plurality of queries, a query is sent to at least one additional information source" at Col. 12 lines 7-20.

As per claim 24, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 23, wherein "the descriptive packet for the at least one additional information source is obtained after receipt of the search request by receiving information in accordance with a receiving protocol usable with the at least one additional information source" at Col. 9 lines 40-65.

As per claim 25, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "the step of identifying to the user comprises presenting at least a portion of the received information" at Col. 12 lines 30-50.

As per claim 26, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "the step of identifying to the user comprises organizing at least a portion of the received information and presenting the organized information to the user" at Col. 12 lines 30-50.

As per claim 27, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "each descriptive packet further includes a response language and parsing template usable with the associated information source and wherein the step of identifying to the user comprises organizing at least a portion of the received information in accordance with the search request and the response language and parsing template in the descriptive packet for the associated information source and presenting the organized information" at Col. 12 lines 30-50

As per claim 28, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 27, wherein "the query language and the response language are the same language" at Col. 8 lines 31-32.

As per claim 29, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "the received information includes dynamically generated information" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 30, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "the received information includes static information" at Col. 11 lines 5-10

As per claim 31, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "the received information includes at least one database" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 32, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "the received information includes text" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 33, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "the received information includes graphics" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 36, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein the computer information network is the Internet" at Col. 11 lines 45-50

As per claim 37, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 17, wherein "the step of providing a searchbase is performed after the step of receiving a search request" at Col. 12 lines 4-6.

As per claim 38, Christianson teaches a method of searching for information on a computer information network (Col. 1 lines 10-15) comprising the steps of:

- "providing a searchbase comprising a plurality of descriptive packets, wherein each packet is associated with one of a plurality of information sources published on a computer information network and includes an identification of the information source and a content description thereof, a query language and template usable therewith, a sending protocol usable therewith, a receiving protocol usable therewith, and a response language and parsing template usable therewith" at Col. 9 lines 25-65;

- "receiving a search request over the computer information network from a user for retrieving information from the plurality of information sources in accordance with given search criteria" at Col. 12 lines 4;

- "transforming the search request into an inquiry capable of searching the searchbase" at Col. 12 lines 5-6 ;

- "searching the searchbase with the inquiry to identify any of the plurality of information sources which potentially meet the given search criteria" at Col. 12 lines 5-6;

- "transforming the search request into queries for the identified information sources, wherein each query is in accordance with the query language and query template in the descriptive packet for the corresponding information source" at Col. 12 lines 7-13;

- "sending the queries over the computer information network to the identified information sources in accordance with the sending protocol in the descriptive packet for the corresponding information source" at Col. 12 lines 14-15 ;

- "receiving information over the computer information network from the identified information sources in response to the queries in accordance with the receiving protocol in the descriptive packet for the corresponding information source" at Col. 12 lines 16-34;

- "organizing at least a portion of the received information in accordance with the search request and the response language" at Col. 12 lines 30-50;

- "parsing template in the descriptive packet for the corresponding information source" at Col. 17 lines 10-20; and

- "identifying any of the identified information sources from which information is received which meet the given search criteria and presenting the organized portion of the received information thereof to the user over the computer information network" at Col. 12 lines 30-50.

As per claim 39, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 38, wherein "the query language and the response language are the same language" at Col. 8 lines 31-32.

As per claim 40, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 38, wherein "the sending protocol and the receiving protocol are different protocols" at Col. 11 lines 47-50.

As per claim 41, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 38, wherein "the received information includes dynamically generated information" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 42, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 38, wherein "the received information includes static information" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 43, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 38, wherein "the received information includes at least one database" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 44, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 38, wherein "the received information includes text" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 45, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 38, wherein "the received information includes graphics" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 48, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 38, wherein "the computer information network is the Internet" at Col. 11 lines 2-5.

As per claim 49, Christianson teaches a method for creating a searchbase for information sources published on a computer information network (Col. 1 lines 10-15) comprising the steps of:

- "obtaining information for each information source including an identification of the information source and a content description thereof, a query language and template usable therewith, a sending protocol usable therewith, and a receiving protocol usable therewith" at Col. 9 lines 25-55;

- "producing a descriptive packet for each information source from the obtained information" at Col. 9 lines 25-65;

- "providing access to the searchbase over a computer information network" at Col. 11 lines 10-25.

As per claim 50, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 49, wherein "the step of obtaining comprises obtaining a response language and parsing template usable therewith" at Col. 16 lines 42-53.

As per claim 51, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 50, wherein "the step of obtaining comprises receiving information for at least one of the information sources" at Col. 9 lines 39-40.

As per claim 55, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 51, further comprising "describing the information required for the descriptive packet in a publication" at Col. 9 lines 25-65.

As per claim 56, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 55, wherein "the publication is made on the Internet, by electronic publication, or in print media" at Col. 9 lines 25-65.

As per claim 57, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 51, wherein "the step of receiving comprises receiving the information in accordance with a receiving protocol usable with the information source" at Col. 11 lines 2-5.

As per claim 58, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 50, wherein "the step of obtaining comprises accessing at least one information source and extracting at least part of the information required for the descriptive packet" at Col. 9 lines 39-55.

As per claim 59, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 58, wherein "the step of extracting comprises extracting information from at least one of meta-tags in the accessed information source and references obtainable from the accessed information source" at Col. 9 lines 39-55.

As per claim 60, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 50, wherein "at least one information source is a query form" at Col. 9 line 67.

As per claim 61, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 50, wherein "at least one information source is a static page" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 62, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 50,

wherein "at least one information source is dynamically generated" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 63, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 50,

wherein "the query language and the response language are the same language" at

Col. 8 lines 31-32.

As per claim 64, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 50,

wherein "the sending protocol and the receiving protocol are different protocols" at Col.

11 lines 2-5.

As per claim 65, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 50,

wherein "the computer information network is the Internet" at Col. 11 lines 2-5.

As per claim 66, Christianson teaches a method for searching over the Internet

comprising the steps of:

- "providing an index of publications published at URL addresses on the Internet"

  at Col. 8 lines 50-56 ;

- "receiving a search request including search criteria" at Col. 12 line 4;

- "searching the publications by searching the index using the search criteria" at

  Col. 12 lines 5-6;

- "retrieving a set of URL addresses from the index for publications which meet the

  search criteria" at Col. 12 lines 5-6 ;

- "searching the publications currently available at the retrieved URL addresses

  using the search criteria" at Col. 12 lines 15-35; and

- "providing in response to the search request URL addresses in the set which meet the search criteria" at Col. 12 lines 30-35.

As per claim 67, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 66, wherein "the step of providing URL addresses comprises providing only URL addresses in the set which currently meet the search criteria" at Col. 7 line 65 to Col. 8 line 1.

As per claim 68, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 67, wherein "the step of providing URL addresses comprises providing all URL addresses in the set which currently meet the search criteria" at Col. 12 lines 5-6.

As per claim 69, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 66, wherein "the publications include at least one database" at Col. 11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 70, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 66, wherein "the publications include text" at Col.11 lines 5-10.

As per claim 71, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 66, wherein "the publications include graphics" at Col. 5 lines 41-42.

As per claim 74, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 66, wherein "the step of providing an index comprises creating the index" at Col. 9 lines 25-65.

As per claim 75, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 1, 6, 11, 17 or 38, wherein "the step of providing a searchbase comprises creating the searchbase" at Col. 9 lines 25-65.

As per claim 76, Christianson teach the method according to claim 1, 6, 11, 17,

38 or 49, wherein "the information source is associated with a vendor" at Col. 8 lines 44-

49.

As per claim 77, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 1, 6, 11,

17, 38 or 49 wherein "the information source is associated with a news organization" at

Col. 11 lines 5-11.

As per claim 78, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 1, 6, 11,

17, 38 or 49 wherein "the information source is associated with an organization

providing access to a database" at Col. 11 lines 5-11.

As per claim 79, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 1, 6, 11,

17, 38 or 49 wherein "the information source is associated with an organization

providing access to booking information" at Col. 11 lines 5-11.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3.   The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all

obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

> (a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set
> forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and
> the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the
> invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains.
> Patentability shall not be negatived by the manner in which the invention was made.

4.   **Claims 34-35, 46-47, and 72-73 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being**

unpatentable over Christianson (U.S 6,085,186) as applied to claims above, and in view

of Hobbs (U.S 5,987,454) ("Hobb").

As per claims 34, 35, 46, 47, 72, 73, Christianson teaches the method according to claims 17, 38, 66 as stated above. Christianson does not teach: "the received information includes audio or video". However, Hobb teaches the method of receiving information from multiple information sources wherein "the received information includes audio and Video" (See Abstract). Thus, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Christianson and Hobb's teaching in order to help user searching for multimedia information such as video and audio data.

5.   **Claims 52-54 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)** as being unpatentable over Christianson as applied to claim 51 above, and in view of Brown et al. (U.S 6,336,116 B1) ("Brown").

As per claim 52, Christianson teaches the method according to claim 51. Christianson teaches receiving information from information sources at Col. 9 lines 56-58, but does not teach "the step of receiving comprises providing a blank form for the information source and receiving a completed form for the information source". However, Brown teaches a similar method for searching an information source wherein "the step of receiving information from information sources comprises providing a blank form for the information sources and receiving a completed form for the information sources" at Figs. 6A1-2, 6B1-2. Thus, it would have been obvious to one ordinarily skilled in the art at the time of the invention to combine Christianson and Brown's teaching in order to make it easier for information source providers to provide their information to the search index.

As per claim 53, Brown and Christianson teach the method according to claim 52. Brown also teaches: "the step of providing a blank form comprises publishing the blank form on the Internet" at Col. 6 lines 14-45.

As per claim 54, Christianson and Brown teach the method according to claim 52, Brown also teaches: "the step of providing a blank form comprises providing the blank form in response to a request therefor" at Col. 6 lines 14-45.

Conclusion

6.   The prior art made of record, listed on form PTO-892, and not relied upon, if any, is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

If a reference indicated as being mailed on PTO-FORM 892 has not been enclosed in this action, please contact Macia Fletcher whose telephone number is (703) 305-4903 for faster service.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Khanh B. Pham whose telephone number is (703) 308-7299. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday 7:30am to 4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John E Breene can be reached on (703) 305-9790. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 746-7239 for regular communications and (703) 746-7238 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or

proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)746-

7240.

Khanh B. Pham
Examiner
Art Unit 2177

KBP
July 26, 2002
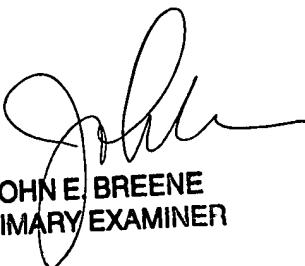
JOHN E. BREENE
PRIMARY EXAMINER